



A Message from your Town Administrator

November 2018

CURBSIDE TRASH PICK UP

“Is there trash pick up this week?” This is one of the most frequently asked questions and to give people a year-long schedule Borges Bros provided us with a quick cheat-sheet for residents to keep handy when this question arises. You can find this schedule at the end of this newsletter or at <http://www.dighton-ma.gov/TRASH%20PICK%20UP%20Dighton%20Holiday%20Schedule.pdf>

TOWNWIDE PARKING BAN IN EFFECT

Per the Town’s Bylaws, there is no overnight parking from November 1 to April 1. Thank you for your compliance with this directive.

Happy Thanksgiving! The holidays always seem to sneak up on me. Before I know it, it is turning colder and time to finalize all our holiday plans with friends and family. All that holiday excitement truly kicks off at Lights On, which will take place on Saturday, November 24. Mrs. Claus will be with us to share some hot cocoa and story time beginning at 3:30p.m. The public will be graced with the musical stylings of Miss Massachusetts and Miss Bristol County, the newly formed Dighton Middle School chorus and more. And be sure to get a good seat along the street for the parade! Lights On was one of my first events in Dighton and something I’ve truly been looking forward to celebrating again. I hope to see you there!

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PLANNING AHEAD

I along with the Board of Selectmen have requested department heads to examine where they’d like to see their respective departments in five years and make a list of items they would need to get there. As these plans roll in ahead of the due date, it is exciting to see so many of your Town officials on the same page with their needs. I am hopeful as we examine all of the requests there will be some interdepartmental cooperation and overlap which will continue our trend of working together to achieve progress and professionalism in Dighton. We are also hopeful that we can utilize these lists to revitalize the capital expenditure planning process and better prepare for these larger expenses. Doing so will in turn allow us to share more information at Town Meetings as to the plan and direction of the Town.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

On December 4, it will have been one year since I started my tenure with the Town of Dighton. In this year, we have streamlined operations in the Selectmen’s Office for increased efficiency, centralized procurement procedures, reviewed and updated policies, focused on economic development, and concentrated on increasing employee engagement. It has been a great pleasure serving the Town of Dighton. I thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your enthusiasm for professionalism in government. Cheers to more years to come!

In that same vein, Selectmen will be considering establishing a Bylaw Review Committee at their next meeting. This Committee would be charged with reviewing any proposed amendments or additions to the Town's General Bylaws and making a recommendation to the voters at Town Meeting. The Committee would also review the Town's Bylaws in their entirety from time to time and make suggested updates and amendments, if necessary.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, I'm reminded of how collaboration is absolutely necessary for success. Much like the Pilgrims and Native Americans needing each other in the early days of our country, modern governing only works well when everyone gathers to the table and works together for the common good. Dighton is no different. My monthly visits with the Superintendent of Schools have been highly beneficial. Sharing information and regular communication will certainly pave the way for a strong partnership between the Town and its regional school district. This month, we focused heavily on using funding from host community agreements for the licensed marijuana facilities locating at 200 Williams Street to develop substance abuse prevention programming within the health curriculum at the middle school level. The Dighton Police Department, through its Detective and School Resource Officer, will work with the school administration, teachers, and students to instill drug-free values in our students. Funds from the host community agreements will also provide assemblies and public education for parents and members of the community. These assemblies will become resources for parents to be aware of drug activity, even when it may be subtle.

Collaboration continued in the way of an intern program. You may remember the Town employed an intern over the summer in the Town Accountant's office. It worked out famously! The Town Accountant and I together are requesting the Board of Selectmen to start a robust, town-wide intern program so that more partnerships can be formed and the Town can do its part to educate new members of the workforce in the ways of municipal finance and governing. This program compliments efforts at the state level initiated by Lieutenant Governor Polito for providing a more skilled municipal workforce in an age where many skilled workers are nearing retirement.

The Dighton contingent of the Regional School Committee and the Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting to appoint a fifth Dightonian to the School Committee, filling a vacancy left by Mr. Chris Andrade. After interviewing four fine candidates, the two boards selected Mr. Thomas O'Connor to fill the seat. Mr. O'Connor has a child in each of the schools in Dighton and has served in the military for much of his life. We thank Mr. O'Connor for his service, not only to our country, but to our Town in this capacity. We look forward to working with him! We also thank Mr. Andrade for his many years of service to the Schools and to Dighton.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Construction projects are underway and wrapping up, all at the same time! The modular units have arrived at the school and are ready for installation. That project is right on time. We commend School Facilities Manager Dave Nappi, Building Inspector Jim Aguiar, and Fire Chief Chris Maguy for all the hard work to keep this project going under tight deadlines and tough restrictions. The roof is wrapping up on the high school as is Old Town Hall. The floors were refinished last week and they are absolutely gorgeous. The Town is so excited to show them off. The first event to take place in the newly finished building will be sponsored by the Library on November 27 with "Lessons Learned from a Christmas Carol" starting at 7:00 p.m. A full ribbon cutting is being planned for January 2019.

Most notably, the Police Station is almost complete! They are working feverishly to order and install all the necessary technology, radio systems, cabling, phones, and computers. It's a beautiful building that we can't wait to show off! Stay

IMPORTANT DATES

November 28 – Selectmen's Meeting

December 2 – Stuff a Cruiser

December 12 – Selectmen's Meeting

December 19 – Selectmen's Meeting

December 24 - Town Hall closed at
11:45.

December 25 – Town Offices Closed

tuned for information on a ribbon cutting and tours. Thank you again to the Building Committee for their ardent leadership throughout the planning and construction of the Police Department's new home.

The Police and Fire Departments are working together to get us in the holiday spirit! Their annual Stuff a Cruiser event is on Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They are looking for new toys, coats, gloves, hats, and any other items to help the community. Last year was a record-breaker. Let's see if we can do it again in year three of this worthy event! The "stuffing" takes place at the Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue.

The Town is in need of Snow Plow Drivers either with or without their own plow. Please contact Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry at 774-218-5339 to sign up!



THE BIG CHEESE

The Big Cheese for the month of November is Town Clerk Sue Medeiros! It is well deserved as the Town Clerk and her office have virtually been nonstop since the Annual Town Meeting in June, which spanned two days and overcame a last-minute venue change. She then orchestrated the special election for the Selectman seat vacated by former Selectman Jack Taylor. Sue no sooner counted ballots than she geared up for the next Town Meeting that came along in August. Wrapping up certified votes for the purchase of the School's modular buildings, Sue then got ready for yet another Town Meeting that took place on October 15 and early voting for the November 6th election, which kicked off on October 22.

Often the Town Clerk's office is the catch all for random questions. They post meetings, hold minutes, keep track of compliance with various laws, and certify our votes upon demand. Thank you to Sue and her staff for always doing what it takes to keep the Town running, and doing it with a smile on their faces. Congratulations!

TRASH SCHEDULE

Holiday schedule for calendar year 2018

Trash and Recycling will not be picked up on the holidays listed below. The pickup schedule will be delayed one day for these holidays and for the remainder of that week.

New Year's Day	Monday - 01/01/18
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday - 01/15/18
President's Day	Monday - 02/19/18
Patriot's Day	Monday - 04/16/18
Memorial Day	Monday - 05/28/18
Independence Day	Wednesday - 07/04/18
Labor Day	Monday - 09/03/18
Columbus Day	Monday - 10/08/18
Thanksgiving	Thursday - 11/22/18
Christmas	Tuesday - 12/25/18

Veteran's Day is on Sunday, 11/11/18. Trash and Recycling for this week will be unaffected, please follow the normal pickup schedule.

Inclement Weather

Trash and Recycling pickup schedules may need to be adjusted due to inclement weather throughout the year. In the event that the Governor of Massachusetts declares a "State of Emergency", pickups will be delayed one day for that day and each day for the remainder of that week. Other delays, due to inclement weather will be decided mutually between the Town of Dighton and Borges Bros Trucking. Delay notifications can be found on the Town's website.